

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/714,815

Examiner

Natalia Figueroa

Applicant(s)

YOSHIMURA ET AL

Art Unit

2651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment (15 November 2005).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2 and 4-24.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>11/16/2005</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The amendment filed 15 November 2005 (11/15/2005) has been received and is acknowledged. Claim 3 has been canceled and claim 24 has been added.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 16 November 2005 (11/16/2005) is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-2 and 4-24 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

RE claim 1, the prior art of record, and in particular Hamada et al (JP 2000-067433) fails to teach or suggest an apparatus comprising a first master disk and a second master disk, wherein each of the first and second master disks has at least two alignment marks disposed outside the region of the magnetic pattern, wherein the alignment marks of the first master disk and the alignment marks of the second master disk have complementary configurations, and wherein the alignment marks of the first or second master disk are rotationally alignable with the magnetic recording medium.

RE claim 7, the prior art of record, and in particular Hamada et al (JP 2000-067433) fails to teach or suggest the prior art of record, and in particular Hamada et al (JP 2000-067433) fails to teach or suggest an apparatus comprising a first master disk and a second master disk, wherein each of the first and second master disks has at least two alignment marks disposed outside the

Art Unit: 2651

region of the magnetic pattern, wherein the alignment marks of each of the first and second master disks are positioned on the same side where the respective magnetic pattern is formed.

RE claim 10, the prior art of record, and in particular Hamada et al (JP 2000-067433) fails to teach or suggest an alignment device comprising a first stage for movably and rotatably holding one of the first and second master disks; a second stage for movably holding the magnetic recording medium between the first and second master disks, wherein the first and second master disks are positioned with the magnetic pattern sides thereof facing the magnetic recording medium; and observing means for observing the positions of the alignment marks of the first and second master disks and an end surface position of an inner periphery or an outer periphery of the magnetic recording medium.

RE claim 18, the prior art of record, and in particular Hamada et al (JP 2000-067433) fails to teach or suggest an alignment method comprising positioning the first master disks next to the second master disk so that the first and second magnetic patterns face each other; moving or rotating, or both, one of the master disks that is transparent or semi-transparent relative to the other while observing the alignment marks of the first and second master disks with first observing means to align the alignment marks of the first and second master disks; positioning the magnetic recording medium between the first and second master disks; observing with second observing means the alignment marks of the master disks and an inner peripheral or outer peripheral end surface of the magnetic recording medium; and moving the magnetic recording medium with respect to the aligned first and second master disks based on observation results of the second observing means.

Art Unit: 2651

RE claim 21, the prior art of record, and in particular Hamada et al (JP 2000-067433) fails to teach or suggest an alignment method comprising fixing the position of one of the first and second master disks; observing the alignment marks of the one master disk with observing means; movably positioning the magnetic recording medium next to the one master disk with the magnetic pattern side of the one master disk facing the magnetic recording medium; observing with the observing means, an inner peripheral or outer peripheral end surface of the magnetic recording medium positioned next to the one master disk; moving the magnetic recording medium with respect to the one master disk based on observation results of the observation of the alignment marks of the one master disk and the magnetic recording medium to align the magnetic recording medium with respect to the one master disk; movably and rotatably positioning the other of the master disks next to the magnetic recording medium so that the magnetic recording medium is positioned between the first and second master disks and the magnetic pattern side of the other master disk facing the magnetic recording medium; observing with the observing means the alignment marks of the other magnetic disk; and moving or rotating or both the other master disk with respect to the one master disk based on the observation results of the alignment marks of the one master disk and the other master disk to align the marks of the first and second master disks.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2651

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Natalia Figueroa whose telephone number is (571) 272-7554.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David R. Hudspeth can be reached on (571) 272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


NFM


DAVID HUDSPETH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600